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July 21, 1997

CELEBRATING PRIDE

Mary Kelley/The Gazette

Misty Porlares, left, Petrita Padilla, front center, and Marian Seidman support family members Sunday by riding in the 1997 Pridefest parade on Tejon Street between Colorado College and Acacia Park. Padilla, 93, lost her grandson, Tom Sandoval, to AIDS in July 1995; his mother, Marcella Sandoval, is driving the car. Also partially shown is Jean Fine. Several hundred people braved the drizzling rain for the annual parade. "It's a celebration . . . of people who have nothing to hide, of people who are content with who they are," said participant Matthew Crispin.

Hundreds turn out for Pridefest

Gays, lesbians 'be themselves' in parade

By **George Mathews**
The Gazette

A 93-year-old grandmother who lost her grandson to AIDS. A Catholic priest. Babies in strollers. And, of course, a few drag queens.

Overwhelmingly, however, the people who marched in Sunday's Pridefest don't stand out in a crowd.

Several hundred people — but no protesters — turned out in downtown Colorado Springs despite drizzling rain for the annual parade. They marched from Colorado College to Acacia Park to celebrate gay and lesbian pride.

No matter their background, whether the mother of a gay son or an ex-Marine in dress blues, a common theme was heard from participants.

"It's a chance for these folks to come out and be themselves," said Linda Knutson, president of the Colorado Springs chapter of PFLAG — Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

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Matthew Crispin, 37, cuts a striking figure in his Marine dress blues. He spent eight years in the Corps as an aviation mechanic. He was awarded the good conduct medal and two overseas service ribbons. During that time, he also knew he was gay.

"I know what I was, but when they asked, I didn't tell," he said.

Now that he's out of the closet and the Marines, Crispin said he can attend the parade and simply be himself.

"It's a celebration, a celebration of people who have nothing to hide, of people who are con-

See **PARADE**/NEWS2

NN KELLY, 88, a homemaker, died
7, in Colorado Springs.
de service will be at 3 p.m. Aug. 1
Gardens Cemetery, 3825 Airport
tion arrangements are being handled
v Funeral Directors,
ade Ave.

Mrs. Kelly

was born Jan. 4,
le Rock, Ark., to
and Martha (Mat-
n, who are

married in 1951 in
prings to James B.
also is deceased.
y is survived by
ws, Dave Pierce of
die Perkovich of
d Buddy Pierce; a niece, Pat Eisen-
orado Springs; and a sister-in-law, Pau-
of Fountain.
ied nursing for a year after graduating
school.
lly was the president of the Pikes Peak
73. She also was vice president and
member of the Daughters of the Nile for
rs.
ways thought of others. She cared for
erly and terminally ill family members
ne.
lly had lived in Colorado Springs since
iously, she had lived in Security and

EY J. VISH, 74, died July 18, 1997, in
Springs. He was a retired federal secur-

on will be from 2 to 7 p.m. today at
Cascade Chapel, 501 N. Cascade Ave.,
y a rosary. The funeral will be at 11
day, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church,
k Park Drive, with the Rev. Don Brown-
iating. Burial will be at Fairview Ceme-
) S. 26th St.
h was born May 6, 1923, in Fairchance,
seph and Stella (Karbosky) Vish, who
ed.
married Nov. 10, 1944, in Masontown,
lyne M. (Sweda), who lives in Colorado

h also is survived by a son, John J. of
Springs; two daughters, Arlene Harmes
lo Springs and Judith Consiglio of Cum-
two brothers, John L. of Edenborne,
oseph Pecosh of Arnold, Md.; four sis-
ie of Masontown, Mildred Doscher of
Pa., and Irene Oleyash and Josephine
both of Falls Church, Va.; and eight
iren. He was preceded in death by two
Walter and Mike; and a sister, Anne.
n served in the Navy for two years, at-
rank of seaman.
lived in Colorado Springs for six years,
in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

ES TODAY

aid C., 10 a.m., Shrine of Remembrance
n the Beautiful" Chapel of Roses, 1730 E.
Blvd.
e Eleanor (Torres), 10 a.m., St. Mary's
l, 22 W. Kiowa St.
Viola "Vi," 11 a.m., Fort Logan National
, Denver.
let C., 11 a.m., Church in the Wildwood,
te Pass Ave., Green Mountain Falls.
n R., 1 p.m., Memorial Gardens Chapel,
ort Road.
et. Col. Chester "Chet," 2 p.m., First
ian Church, 219 E. Bijou St.
Eugene, 4 p.m., East United Method

STATE

Coroner: Boy died of asphyxiation, not wounds from mountain lion

10-year-old attacked during hike

Associated Press

GRAND LAKE — A 10-year-old boy attacked by a mountain lion did not die from his wounds, but from asphyxiation, a coroner ruled.

Mark Miedema died Thursday after he was attacked by the lion while hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park with his family.

Grand County Coroner Dave Schoenfeld said Saturday the Lakewood boy choked to death on his own vomit.

The official cause of death was respiratory failure brought on by "massive asphyxiation," the coroner said.

Schoenfeld said the boy, who had rushed ahead to see if animals had eaten nuts he put out for them earlier, likely was dead by the time his family came upon his body in the lion's clutches. The coroner said the boy's stomach was full of trail mix. He said none of the boy's puncture wounds was deep enough to cause death.

Schoenfeld said the only other injury was a hyperextended spinal cord, likely caused by shock or paralysis.

"The mountain lion didn't have that much time to cause that much trauma," he said. "Normally, he would have survived it."

Jack Whitworth, a park manager, said wildlife experts suspected "the classic" mountain lion kill: suffocation or neck breaking.

The boy's mother, Kathy, a registered nurse, labored for an hour to revive him, along with another registered nurse, Christina Kafka of Westminster.

Parade/People at Pridefest come for variety of reasons

From NEWS1

tent with who they are," he said.

The message he wants the public to learn from the parade is that gays and lesbians are just like anyone else.

"We're everywhere," he said. "Your doctor, your nurse, your Marines."

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Beth, who would not give her last name because she fears for the safety of her 20-year-old gay son, marched at the head of the parade with other members of PFLAG. She carried a sign that read: "Guess what? My kid is gay and I love 'em anyway."

By marching, Beth said she hopes to educate others that gays and lesbians, as well as their parents and family members, are normal people who deserve the same rights as everyone else.

"My son's lost a job already (because of his sexual orientation). That's not all right," she said.

Beth said she's come a long way from when her son came "out" to her 18 months ago.

"It was awful; it was awful," she said of the time. "I just thought, I don't know what I thought. I guess I just agreed with Will Perkins," who has become well-known for his opposition to the homosexual lifestyle.

> "I think it shows that we're not going to be hiding from anyone."
>
> **Pridefest participant Kim Kline**

But through the support of PFLAG, Beth said, she came to the conclusion that the problem was with society, not her son.

"I love my son," she said. "What was I going to do? He hadn't changed any, he was still the same person."

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For Cherie Miller and her partner of four years, Cheryl Myer, Pridefest is an opportunity to demonstrate to their children that their family is not traditional.

"I think because they've grown up with it (lesbian parents), they're real matter-of-fact about it, it's a real nonissue," Miller said.

This was not true in Miller's own life, however. Miller, 38, said she has known she was a lesbian since she was 17, but refused to acknowledge it because of her religious upbringing.

She married and had children, but eventually had to face her sexuality, she said.

"It was an agonizing choice because it meant leaving my husband and telling my family," Miller said. She was also worried that it would mean walking away from God, in accordance with her religious beliefs at the time.

Now, Miller, who describes herself as a devout Christian, said the parade is a way to show that faith and a nontraditional lifestyle are not mutually exclusive.

"God accepts and loves me, and I just wanted to show that," she said.

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Kim Kline, 18, said that it's probably easier to be openly gay now than it was 20 years ago, but it's still hard to find acceptance.

"Events like this help a little bit at a time," she said.

The parade, she said, is symbolic in conservative Colorado Springs.

"I think it shows that we're not going to be hiding from anyone," she said. "We have as much right to be here as anyone else."